

*Island of the Blue Dolphins*, Chapter 4  
**Battle of the Senses**

**Grade Level**

Upper Elementary: Third Grade through Fifth Grade

**Subject**

Literacy and Language Arts, Science

**Common Core Standards**

4.W.1

**Next Generation Science Standards**

4-LS1-2

**Background Information**

The devastating battle that takes place in chapter 4 brings chaos and tragedy. From her position on the cliffs, Karana tries to make sense of what is happening even when she cannot hear or see the fighting clearly.

This activity aims to stimulate students' creative side while helping them to visualize how humans process information through their five senses.

**Materials**

- Copy of activity sheet for each student (provided)
- Photo of present-day Corral Harbor, located on San Nicolas Island:  
<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/islandofthebluedolphins/images/960-Corral-Harbor.jpg>
- Colored pencils or markers
- Class set of *Island of the Blue Dolphins*

**Procedure**

1. Assign each student a partner.
2. Read aloud the passage in chapter 4 that describes the fighting that took place in Coral Cove (Corral Harbor). As you read, remind students to visualize the action.
3. Give each student a copy of the activity sheet.
4. To help students better visualize the setting while working on the activity sheet, project on the board a present-day photo of Corral Harbor.
5. Go over the activity sheet directions. Answer any questions.
6. Give students time to think, draw, and write.
7. Give students time to discuss their drawing and sentences with their partners.
8. Invite students to share what they have written and the rationale for their choices.  
Example: Karana was able to see the Aleut ship in the ocean because she had a clear view of the cove.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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**Directions:** Draw Karana at the top of the cliff that is pictured on the bottom of this activity sheet. Imagine this is the cliff from which Karana, her siblings, and other women and children watched the battle on the beach below. Discuss with your partner how Karana may have used her five senses (sight, sound, touch, smell, taste) to determine what was happening in the cove. When needed, refer to the battle's description in chapter 4. You might choose to illustrate what Karana sees. How can you illustrate what Karana might Smell? Hear? Taste? Feel?

Write a descriptive paragraph on how Karana might have used each of her five senses. Include at least one sentence for **each** sense. When finished, share your paragraph with your partner.

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